



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PeachCare for Kids Enrollment Closes to New Members ***Children currently enrolled continue to receive care***

ATLANTA – Today, Georgia Department of Community Health Commissioner Dr. Rhonda Medows informed the Board of Community Health that PeachCare for Kids (PCK) will no longer accept new enrollees to the program as of March 11, 2007.

“We have seen this important program grow to cover over 270,000 children. It is a way for hard working parents to try to provide health care for their children,” Dr. Medows said. “We continue to wait for an act of Congress to occur so that we can provide care for the children currently enrolled in the program through October 2007.”

PCK, Georgia’s State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), is a partnership between the state and federal government to provide comprehensive health care program for uninsured children living in Georgia. The state has reserved its share of the funds needed; however, the program has a \$131 million federal funding shortfall for Federal Fiscal Year 2007.

The announcement comes as the state is actively urging Congress to allot funds for the SCHIP shortfall that Georgia and 14 other states face. State projections show that PCK will run out of operating funds sometime in March 2007.

A public notice has been filed to cease the allowance of new members to the PCK program. Effective March 11, 2007, only those currently enrolled in the PCK program may continue to receive services via the state.

“Parents and guardians of children already enrolled in PCK should not be alarmed by this notification,” Dr. Medows said. “As long as the PCK has money to operate, your children will receive care under the terms of their current enrollment. We remain hopeful that Congress will fulfill its commitment to the SCHIP program.”

***For more information about the PeachCare for Kids program, please access
<http://www.dch.ga.gov>***